

SEVERAL 3/27 ad
METHODS
OF
READING
THE
HOLY SCRIPTURES

IN PRIVATE;

Seriously Recommended to Considera-
tion and Use. K.

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THE
P R E F A C E.



*HAT the Holy Scripture is of Divine Authority, and excellently fitted to afford all the Assistance we can need from it, in our Way towards Heaven, appears from the well known Words of St. Paul, * All Scripture is given by Inspiration of God, and is profitable for Doctrine, for Reproof, for Correction, for Instruction in Righteousness, that the Man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good Works.*

That all Christians are to be plentifully stored with Knowledge thence, we may learn from the same Apostle's Exhortation, || Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all Wisdom.

The following Directions, which, in the first Scheme of them, were part of a Sermon, preached long since, are designed to promote

A 2

Plenty

THE PREFACE.

Plenty of Scriptural Knowledge: May the Blessing of God make them effectual to that excellent Purpose.

*Nor will it, 'tis hoped, be thought Presumption, that an Aged Clergyman humbly invites his younger Brethren at the same Time to give Attendance * to Reading the Holy Scripture, and to partake of the Satisfaction of doing so.*

All I have further to add, in Way of Preface, is the following earnest Prayer; That the sincere and constant Belief, and Profession of the Truth, which the Blessed Book proposes; and the uniform persevering Practice of the Duties, which, upon the best Encouragements, it requires, may preserve this Church (which abundantly owns the || Sufficiency of it for Salvation) in a safe, peaceable, flourishing Condition; the Bulwark of the Reformed Religion, and the Glory of Christendom, till Time shall be no more. This is a Prayer in which all, who desire to be found faithful Ministers, or sound Members of it, will readily join, with their

Most Obedient

Humble Servant,

* 1 Tim. 4. 13. See St. Chrys. on this Place.

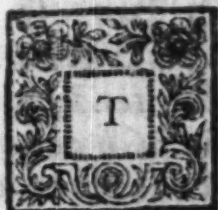
|| Article VI.



METHODS

Of READING the

HOLY SCRIPTURES.



THE first of the Five Methods offered to Consideration in this small Tract is, To read in private according to the Direction of the Church of *England* for the Publick Reading both of the Psalter, and the rest of the Holy Scripture; to be seen before the Liturgy.

By a due and careful Use of this Method, the Psalter or Book of *Psalms*, an admirable Treasury of Piety and Devotion, of Prayers and Praises, suitable to all Occasions, will be read over

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cept the *Psalms* for one or two Days in one Month, and those which give place to proper *Psalms*) twelve times every Year. The most part of the Old Testament will be read over once, and the New Testament (besides the Epistles and Gospels in their Course) thrice; except the Apocalypse, out of which there are only certain proper Lessons upon divers Feasts.

The Second Method is of larger Extent, and comprehends the former, and abundantly supplies what can be said to be wanting in it: For it is, to read the whole Bible according to the Order of the several Books; and each Day, so many Chapters out of the Old and New Testament, as are necessary for reading both once every Year. This will certainly be done, and several Weeks sooner, if every Day Three Chapters shall be read out of the Old Testament, or so many *Psalms*, as are proportionable, and one out of the New. That out of the New, it will be a pleasure to Clergymen, and other Scholars, to read in the Original *Greek*.

Nor will they think much to add the concurrent History of both Testaments,
out

out of *Josephus*, the Three first Books of *Eusebius's Ecclesiastical History*, Archbishop *Usher's Annals*, and out of other Authors; particularly the Old and New Testament connected in the History of the *Jews* and Neighbouring Nations, by Dr. *Prideaux*, the present worthy Dean of *Normich*, the Iⁿ, II^a, and III^a Parts. Let me subjoin *Bochartus's Hierozoicon*, his *Phaleg* and *Canaan*; our Learned and Pious Bishop *Cumberland's Scripture Weights and Measures*; Dr. *Wells's Historical Geography of the Old and New Testament*; and Mr. *Maunder's Journey from Aleppo to Jerusalem*, the Best Edition.

Some Judicious, Learned, and well-esteemed Commentators, Paraphrasts, and Criticks, whether such as have written upon the whole Bible, or on particular Parts, will be proper to be consulted as we go on; tho' not at the same time, or in the same yearly Course.

Such as follow, cannot well be omitted: *Fagius* upon the *Pentateuch*, *Munster*, *Mans* upon *Joshua*, *Nicholas Fuller*, *Ainsworth* upon the *Pentateuch*, *Gregory*, *Mede*, *Lightfoot*, Bishop *Hall* upon the hard Texts of the whole Divine Scripture, *Grotius*, *Hammond*, *Pocock*, *Patrick*,
A 4 Dr.

Dr. *Lowth* upon the Prophet *Isaiab*, *Jeremiah*, *Lamentations*, with his Directions for the profitable reading of the Holy Scriptures; *Stokes* upon the Twelve *Minor* Prophets; *Erasmus's* Paraphrase in *Latin* upon the New Testament; the Learned Dr. *Whitby* on the same; and Mr. *Burkitt*, whose sound pious Matter, greatly encourages to Perusal: A Paraphrase and Annotations on all the Epistles of St. *Paul*.

If in the Use of these, and other Commentators and Criticks, special Reference shall be had to that Catalogue of Difficulties in Mr. *Fenton's Apparatus*, p. 120, &c. it may be, it is hoped, of no small Advantage.

Nor may this Course of Reading be justly thought too long, or too painful; nor will it by those who shall remember, that at our Ordination we solemnly promised, that we would endeavour, the Lord being our Helper, to be diligent in Reading the Holy Scriptures, and in such Studies as help towards the Knowledge of the same; laying aside the Study of the World, and the Flesh.

The Third Method is, to read frequently some of the most remarkable Places of the Holy Scripture. Let

Let me recommend particularly these which follow: The History of the Creation, and of the Fall of Man, and the Promises of Mercy through Christ: the History of the Flood, and of the Destruction of *Sodom* and *Gomorrah*; and of the Sufferings and Advancement of *Joseph*, in the Book of *Genesis*.

The History of the Sufferings and Deliverance of the *Israelites*; as also of the Law, of the Ten Commandments, and of the terrible Manner in which it was published, in the Book of *Exodus*.

Read in the 24th Chapter of *Leviticus*, the Sin and Punishment of *Shelomith's* Son, who blasphemed the Name of the Lord, and cursed, and by God's Command was stoned to Death; the dreadful Punishment of Sedition and Rebellion, in the 16th Chapter of *Numbers*.

Read the 5th, 27th, 28th, and 29th Chapters of *Deuteronomy*; and in the three latter, the greatest Discouragements from Sin, and a great Variety of Motives to good Living.

In the 17th Chapter of the 1st Book of *Samuel*, the Combat of *David* with *Goliath* is described, and the Particulars which concern it; being very fit to excite to Faith, and pious Confidence in God, who brings about his Purposes,

To *Methods of Reading*

to the Confusion of proud and haughty Scorners, by the most unlikely Means.

Solomon's Choice of Wisdom offers it self to us, in the 3^d Chapter of the First Book of *Kings*; in the 13th, 17th, and 18th Chapters, we may view several illustrious Proofs of God's Providence, and of the special Care he takes of his faithful Servants.

In the first Book of *Chronicles*, the 28th Chapter, particularly at the 9th Verse, we may read, and it will be worth the frequent Reading, King *David's* Charge before his Death to his Son King *Solomon*; *Know thou the God of thy Father, and serve him with a perfect Heart, and with a willing Mind. For the Lord searcheth all Hearts, and understandeth all the Imaginations of the Thoughts. If thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.*

In the 34th and 35th Chapters of the Second Book of *Chronicles*, we have the pious Life and sorrowful Death of King *Josiah*.

In the 36th Chapter, God's merciful Dealing with the People of the *Jews*, in the Warnings he gave them, the ill Returns they made, and the dreadful Ef-

Effects of their Ingratitude, appearing in their incorrigible persisting in their Sins, are so set forth, as to be fit to affect and terrify.

The Confession in the 9th Chapter of *Ezra* is very exemplary; as is the religious manner of Reading and Hearing the Law, in the 8th Chapter of *Nehemiah*, ver. 5, and 6. *And Ezra opened the Book in the Sight of all the People, — and when he opened it, all the People stood up: And Ezra blessed the Lord the great God: And all the People answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their Hands: And they bowed their Heads, and worshipped the Lord with their Faces to the Ground.* In the 9th Chapter of the same Book, there is a great Variety of extraordinary Remarkables. There is particularly a short History of God's Providence in his Dealings with the *Israelites*, and of the unworthy Return they made.

The Book of *Esther*, where the Name of God is not once mentioned, contains many Instances, in which the Divine Wisdom, Power, and Goodness are brightly visible.

In the Book of *Job*, read more frequently the 1st, the 2^d, the 14th, the 19th,

19th, the 23^d, the 27th, 31st, 32^d, and 42^d Chapters.

In the Book of *Psalms*, the 1st, the 4th, 8th, 18th, 19th, 22^d, 25th, 34th, 36th, 37th, the 50th, 73^d, 84th, 90th, 91st, 103^d, 107th, 118th, 119th, 146th; and the Seven Penitential *Psalms*, being the 6th, 32^d, 38th, 51st, 102^d, 130th, 143^d.

In the *Proverbs*, the 1st, the 3^d, the 6th, the 11th, 15th, 22^d, 23^d, 24th, 27th, 28th, 29th, and 31st Chapters; in which last, the Description of a good Wife, who is a great Blessing to her Husband, her Family, her Neighbours, well deserves to be consider'd.

The 1st and 2^d Chapters of *Ecclesiastes*, will teach us to understand the World; shew us that the Sum Total of all is Vanity and Vexation of Spirit, Chap. 1. *ver.* 14. The 12th Chapter, will be a very proper Exercise of Childrens Memories; and contains such important Truths and Duties, as it will be the Happiness of Young and Old effectually to remember. *Remember now thy Creator in the Days of thy Youth; So the Chapter begins. Let us hear the Conclusion of the whole Matter: Fear God, and keep his Commandments; for this is the*

the whole Duty of Man: For God shall bring every Work into Judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or evil. So it ends.

In the Prophet *Isaiah*, let me recommend to your reading the 1st, 5th, and 11th Chapters; the History of the Defeat of *Sennacherib*; of the Sickness and Recovery of *Hezekiah*, in the 36th and following Chapters; the Account of God's Love to, and Care of his Church, in the 49th; the Reasonableness of Trusting in him, in the 51st; at the 12th and 13th Verses of which, we find these Words: *I, even I am he that comforteth you. Who art thou, that thou shouldst be afraid of Man that shall die, and the Son of Man that shall be made as Grass? And forgettest the Lord thy Maker, that hath stretched forth the Heavens, and laid the Foundations of the Earth? and hast feared continually every Day, because of the Fury of the Oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? And where is the Fury of the Oppressor?*

Beyond all the rest, let me press the frequent and serious Reading of the 53^d Chapter of this Prophecy; of which *John* late Earl of *Rocheſter* said, when God had humbled him by Afflictions,

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fictions, and made him fit for Divine Instructions, That as he heard it read, he felt an inward Force, which did so enlighten his Mind, and convince him, that he could resist it no longer. For the Words had an Authority which did shoot like Rays or Beams in his Mind: So that he was not only convinced by the Reasonings he had about it, which satisfied his Understanding; but by a Power which did so effectually constrain him, that he did ever after as firmly believe in his Saviour, as if he had seen him in the Clouds. *Some Passages of the Life and Death of John Earl of Rochester*, p. 141, 142.

In the Prophet *Jeremy*, read the 5th Chapter, particularly Verse 22. *Fear ye not me, saith the Lord? Will ye not tremble at my Presence, which have placed the Sand for the Bound of the Sea, by a perpetual Decree, that it cannot pass it; and though the Waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; tho' they roar, yet can they not pass over it?*

As also the 17th, 18th, and 31st Chapters: In the 31st, and following Verses of which last, we have a large and excellent Account of that New Cove-

Covenant referr'd to in the 8th Chapter of the Epistle to the *Hebrews*; and Chapter 35, where a great Example of Obedience in the *Rechabites*.

From the 52^d Chapter, by the terrible Sufferings of King *Zedekiah*, the greatest of Men may learn to stand in Awe of God, to be humble, and moderate, and under a constant Sense of the Uncertainty of the Enjoyments of this World; as also from King *Jehoiakim's* Advancement in the 37th Year of his Captivity, not to despond, much less to despair, upon the long Continuance of Adversity. And the Third Chapter of the same Prophet's *Lamentations*; the 3^d, the 11th, 18th, 33^d, 36th Chapters of the Prophet *Ezekiel*.

The 3^d, the 4th, the 5th and 6th Chapters of the Prophet *Daniel*, cannot be seriously perus'd without Admiration at the discovering of God's Wisdom, Power, Goodness and Justice, in the Transactions of his Providence; with which mighty Kings were exceedingly affected, as it appears by their Words and Actions upon Record there. Let not the 12th Chapter be omitted.

In the Prophecy of the Prophet *Jonah*, we see enough to make the Disobedient trem-

tremble, and the Penitent hope, under the most terrible Denunciations of Judgment. What can be more encouraging to such as address themselves to God by faithful, fervent Prayer in their Afflictions, than that which we read at large in the 2d Chapter, particularly at the 2d Verse? *I cried, by reason of my Affliction, unto the Lord, and he heard me: Out of the Belly of Hell cried I, and thou heardest my Voice.* Of the Prevalence of sincere and general Repentance, the last Verse of the 3d Chapter affords an Example never to be forgotten: *God saw their Works, that they turned from their evil Way: and God repented of the Evil that he had said that he would do unto them, and he did it not.*

The 5th, 6th, and 7th Chapters of the Prophet *Micah*; the Prophecy of *Habakkuk*, the 2d Chapter in special; Verses 15th and 16th, against provoking to immoderate Drinking; and the 17th and 18th Verses of the 3d Chapter, which excite to trust in God in the most unfavourable Circumstances, call for and will reward our Attention. Read the Prophecy of *Haggai*; in the 2d Chapter of which, at the 7th, 8th, and 9th Verses, we have an illustrious

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Prophecy of our Lord's Coming in the Time of the Second Temple; the Evidence of which cannot, but with great Absurdity, be opposed by such as own the Authority of the Scriptures of the Old Testament; out of which, what I further recommend to frequent Perusal, you may read in the 5th, 12th, and 13th Chapters of *Zachary*; and in the Prophecy of *Malachi*, more especially in the 3d Chapter, at the 16th, 17th, and 18th Verses, which shew us how Religion was exercised in the former Ages of the World, what Acceptance and what Encouragement it met with from God, and what Satisfaction it shall find at last.

In the New Testament, read in the Gospel of St. *Matthew*, the History of our Lord's Birth; his Sermon on the Mount, which struck the Hearers with Admiration; he teaching them as one having Authority, far beyond that of the *Scribes*; add the Account of the last Judgment; of our Lord's Passion; and of the first Institution of the Sacrament of his last Supper; and of his glorious Resurrection, which no Malice was subtle and powerful enough to defeat.

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In the 6th Chapter of *St. Mark*, at the 20th Verse, we have a short, but excellent Character of *St. John the Baptist*; and an Account of the Value *Herod* had for him; and in those that follow, of his Sufferings. In the first Chapter of *St. Luke*, we have a farther Account of that admirable Man; as also a Relation of the Notice the Blessed Virgin had from God, by the Angel *Gabriel*, that she was to be the Mother of our Lord; and of the humble Manner in which she received the Divine Message: In the 2^d Chapter, we have the most comfortable Proclamations of our Lord's Birth, by a Heavenly Herald, and the Celebration of it by the Heavenly Host.

In the 4th Chapter, every pious Soul will delight to read the Victory our Lord obtained, by the Sword of the Spirit, over the great Enemy of Mankind, after he had by Fasting prepared himself for the great Encounter. The 15th Chapter presents us with the very affecting Parable of the Prodigal Son; in which we see the Misery his Wickedness brought him to; the happy Course he resolv'd upon and took, when his Sufferings had brought him
to

to himself; and the Reception he met with from his Father, to the great Encouragement of all truly penitent Sinners.

The different Conditions of *Dives* and *Lazarus*, which we cannot fail to read in the 16th Chapter; let us see how much it concerns us, while we have Opportunity to take Care that we come not to that Place of Torment; where there is no Relief to be had, and from whence there is no Removal.

The Example of the penitent Thief may be read at large at the 40th and two following Verses of the 23^d Chapter; and in the next, our Lord's most encouraging Answer to that Petition, admirable for the Faith that appears in it, which he offered to our Lord then hanging upon the Cross; *and he said unto Jesus, Lord, Remember me when thou comest into thy Kingdom*; and Jesus said, *Verily, I say unto thee, To Day shalt thou be with me in Paradise.*

In the Gospel of St. *John*, read often the 1st, 3^d, 5th, 6th, and 11th Chapters; in the 11th particularly the History of the Resurrection of *Lazarus* *, the Fourth

* *παρακαλεῖται*
Ἰησοῦς, xi. 39.

ried;

ried; an Example excellently fitted to confirm our Faith, and encourage our Hope of a Resurrection.

Read the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 17th Chapters; in the last of them, we have our Lord's Divine Prayer for his Disciples and other Christians, and especially for that Unity, by the Want of which, *Christendom* hath so frequently, so long, and so dreadfully suffered; and doth at present, to the Grief of all good Christians, suffer.

In the 21st Chapter, the Proof our Lord required of St. Peter's Love to him, the Feeding of his Lambs and Sheep, deserves to be considered in a more special Manner by those, whose Office requires it of them.

The 1st, 2^d, 3^d, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th Chapters of the *Acts* of the Apostles, will encourage us to read them frequently, by the Account they give of the Primitive Church; the Way of Living in it, after Admission into it by Baptism; the Manner in which God appeared for it; of the Actions and Sufferings of the Apostles; and of the first Martyr St. Stephen; whose excellent Apology, whose pious and charitable Death, and the Encouragement
he

he had from Heaven to undergo it, will be read to the great Satisfaction of all good Christians. Add the 10th Chapter of the same Book, wherein we have the Character and Example of *Cornelius* the Centurion; the special Notice God took of his Prayers and Alms, and an Account of his Conversion to Christianity, by the Ministry of *St. Peter*; whom he sent for by divine Direction. In the 11th Chapter, read *St. Peter's* Apology for himself, after he had been with, and had preach'd to the *Gentiles*; the Mission of *Barnabas*, his Character and Success, and an Example of Primitive Charity. In the 12th Chapter, we have the Death of *St. James*; the wonderful Deliverance of *St. Peter*, upon the Prayers of the Church; and the remarkable Death of *Herod* the Persecutor, who was smitten by an Angel, because he gave not God the Glory; so as to be eaten to Death with Worms. In the 16th, the Sufferings of *St. Paul* and *Silas*; the Occasion of them, and the comfortable Manner in which they underwent them; their Deliverance, and the Jaylor of *Philippi's* Conversion, will always be a great

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Entertainment to pious Christians. In the 17th, St. Paul's Sermon in the Court of the *Areopagites*, to the *Athenians*, particularly about the Day of Judgment; and the Acceptance it met with, ought to be seriously consider'd. St. Paul's Discourse at *Miletus* to the Elders of the Church, whom he sent for from *Ephesus*, is such as well deserves to be constantly before the Eyes of the Clergy, as representing them with an Example, which to have followed, will be matter of Joy to all Eternity. In the 24th Chapter, St. Paul's Discourse before *Felix*, and therein, the Account of his Faith, Hope, and Practice; and his Apology before King *Agrippa* in the 26th, wherein there is a Relation of his miraculous Conversion, and of the Design upon which he was sent to the *Gentiles*; are worthy of the most serious Thoughts.

The Preservation and Deliverance of St. Paul, and of those that sailed with him upon his Account, in the 27th Chapter, will much encourage good Christians to Dependence upon God, in the greatest Difficulties and Dangers of this Life.

In the Epistle to the *Romans*, read the first Chapter, more especially the 4th Verse, concerning our Lord's Resurrection; and the 20th, concerning the Knowledge of God by the Light of Nature; the 8th Chapter, concerning the Influence and Assistance of the Holy Spirit, the Death, Resurrection, and Intercession of our Lord? The 12th, where we have a great Variety of Christian Duties briefly enumerated, and so easily to be remembered; the 13th, where the great and necessary Duty of Subjection to the higher Powers, *not only for Wrath, but for Conscience sake*, is more especially required, as also that Love which is the fulfilling of the Law.

In the First Epistle to the *Corinthians*, the 1st Chapter, the 2d, the 3d, and 6th; the 10th at the 16th Verse, about the Sacrament of our Lord's Supper; and the 31st, about doing all to God's Glory, call for a special Regard. In the 11th Chapter, the Institution of that Holy Sacrament; our Duty to prepare for receiving it, by examining our selves; and the Danger of receiving it unworthily,

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worthily, are plainly set before us, and ought to be frequently perused.

In the 13th Chapter, we have an Account of the Necessity and excellent Properties of Charity; in the 15th, the Proofs of that fundamental and exceedingly comfortable Article of the Resurrection from the Dead; and the Account of the Manner in which the Bodies of good Christians shall be raised; and the Influence the Doctrine of the Resurrection ought to have upon us at the last Verse, require our Eyes and Thoughts.

In the 2^d Epistle, mindful of the Brevity I design, let me only recommend the 4th, 5th, and 10th Chapters, as treating of eternal Things; of the last Judgment, and the new Creature, which must make it happy to us; and of Reconciliation to God, who was in Christ reconciling the World to himself; which otherwise must have been wholly under his Wrath for ever. And the last of the Three, as treating of our spiritual War-

Warfare and Armour, and the Effects of it, in the 3^d, 4th, and 5th Verses, in a very uncommon Manner.

In the Epistle to the *Galatians*, the 20th Verse of the 2^d Chapter, concerning the Apostle's being crucified with Christ, and yet living; the latter Part of the 5th, where the Works of the Flesh, and the Fruits of the Spirit, are reckon'd up; and the Ten first Verses of the 6th Chapter, where are many choice Exhortations, invite us to diligent Reading.

In the 5th and 6th Chapters of the Epistle to the *Ephesians*, we have a short View of the relative Duties of Husbands and Wives, Parents and Children; Masters and Servants; which such ought continually to read and think on. The 6th Chapter supplies us with a Relation of that whole Armour, which every good Christian will be glad to read of, and careful to provide and put on, that he may be able to stand against the Wiles of the Devil.

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The whole Epistle to the *Philippians*, the devout Christian will often read.

The 3d and 4th Chapters of the Epistle to the *Colossians* agree with the 5th and 6th Chapters of the Epistle to the *Ephesians*, as to relative Duties; and the 3d affords much Encouragement to read it as to other Particulars, from the 1st to the 18th Verse; where the Account of relative Duties begins; and is continued to the 2d Verse of the following Chapter.

In the 4th Chapter of the first Epistle to the *Thessalonians*, from the 13th Verse, there is a Discourse concerning Death, under the Notion of Sleep; and of our Lord's Second Coming, and the Manner of it, continued in the 5th Chapter, and there followed by many Exhortations to Duties, the Performance of which will adorn a Christian's Life, and a proper Prayer or Wish. The 1st and 2d Epistles to *Timothy*, and that to *Titus*, are in a special Manner recommended to the Reading of Clergymen; who may there, as in a clear Glass, see their Duty; may be
fur-

nished with the best Canons, Rules, and Directions, with Reference to Doctrine and Life; to themselves and their Families; to the Worship of God, Ecclesiastical Government, and the Discipline of the Church.

The Epistle to *Philemon* contains an affectionate Address to him from *St. Paul*; recommending *Onesimus*, whom of an unprofitable Servant, Conversion to the Christian Religion had made useful to his Master, and to the Apostle; as it will make all those that attain to the same Happiness far more serviceable than otherwise they could have been.

In the Epistle to the *Hebrews*, the 1st Chapter, concerning the Divine Excellency of our Lord, *who is the Brightness of his Father's Glory, and the express Image of his Person*: The 4th and the 6th, where are many excellent Things; the 8th, the 9th and 10th, concerning the New Covenant, and the Blessed Mediator of it; the 11th, wherein we are encouraged to the Exercise of Faith by the great

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Things it hath done ; by the glorious Triumph it hath been honoured with ; the 12th, wherein we have an Exhortation to Patience from the Example of our Lord ; where the Advantages of Affliction, and the Necessity of Peace and Holiness, are set before us, and particularly call for our Attention.

The Epistle of St. *James* hath many Remarkables in it about Joy under Afflictions ; living suitably to our Profession ; joining Works with Faith ; concerning the Tongue, and the Government of it ; the Uncertainty of the World ; Behaviour in Sicknes and Affliction ; besides much of Instruction from the Examples of *Job* and *Elias* ; which will encourage us to read it frequently.

The First Chapter of the First Epistle of St. *Peter*, wherein the Apostle treats of the Heavenly Inheritance, and of the Holiness that must fit us for it : The Second, wherein we may read our Duty to the King as Supreme ; and unto Governors, as unto them that are sent by him ; and to

to all Men and Christians: The Fifth, wherein there is a special Address to the Clergy, and the best of Motives to perswade them to their Duty, from the Promise of that Crown of Glory which fadeth not away, invite us to a diligent Perusal.

In the first Chapter of the Second Epistle, the Golden Chain of Graces, to be added to one another for the Compleating a Christian: In the Second, the Examples of God's Justice, and of his Mercy: In the Third, the End of all Things, and the Use to be made of it, will deserve to be often read and consider'd.

In the First Chapter of the First Epistle of St. *John*, the illustrious Testimony given to Christian Religion, and the Denial of sinless Perfection: In the Second, the Account of our Advocate with the Father, of the World, and of the Danger of loving it: in the Third, the Love of God to us, and the Love we ought to have for one another; of both which, more in the 4th Chapter: In the Fifth, the Means

Things it hath done ; by the glorious Triumph it hath been honoured with ; the 12th, wherein we have an Exhortation to Patience from the Example of our Lord ; where the Advantages of Affliction, and the Necessity of Peace and Holiness, are set before us, and particularly call for our Attention.

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to all Men and Christians: The Fifth, wherein there is a special Address to the Clergy, and the best of Motives to perswade them to their Duty, from the Promise of that Crown of Glory which fadeth not away, invite us to a diligent Perusal.

In the first Chapter of the Second Epistle, the Golden Chain of Graces, to be added to one another for the Compleating a Christian: In the Second, the Examples of God's Justice, and of his Mercy: In the Third, the End of all Things, and the Use to be made of it, will deserve to be often read and consider'd.

In the First Chapter of the First Epistle of St. *John*, the illustrious Testimony given to Christian Religion, and the Denial of sinless Perfection: In the Second, the Account of our Advocate with the Father, of the World, and of the Danger of loving it: in the Third, the Love of God to us, and the Love we ought to have for one another; of both which, more in the 4th Chapter: In the Fifth, the Means

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of obtaining Victory over the World, and the great Doctrine of the Three that bear Record in Heaven; in whose Name, or into the Acknowledgement of whom, we are Baptized, call for our most serious Thoughts. Upon this last great Subject, let me recommend Bishop *Stillingfleet's* Vindication of the Doctrine of the Trinity, page 164, 165, &c.

εἰς τὸ ὄνομα.
Matt. 28. 19.

The Epistle of St. *Jude* agrees with the Second of St. *Peter*; and besides the terrible Examples of God's Wrath, has that Ancient Prophecy of *Enoch*, the *Seventh* from *Adam*, concerning the Day of Judgment which is fitted to awaken the most secure and careless Sinners.

In the Book of the *Revelation* of St. *John*, the First Chapter, which describes our Lord's Coming; the Epistles to the Seven Churches in the two next Chapters; the Account of the Day of Judgment; in the 20th; of the Punishment of the Wicked, and
of

of the glorious Reward of good Men and Christians, which follows, contains all I shall further offer under this Third Head.

The Fourth Method : That such as really and necessarily want Leisure, should frequently read the Book of *Psalms*, and the Epistles and Gospels for the several Lord's Days, and other Festivals and Fasts.

In the Use of the *Psalms*, we shall present to God divinely inspir'd Prayers and Praises continually ; and be fitted, by admirable Instruction and Examples, to offer them up.

In the Gospels, there is a large Account of the Mystery of our Redemption ; In the Epistles, great Variety of Christian Duties. The first [the Gospels] being (as an eminent Person hath observed) a Record of the Life and Death of our Blessed Saviour ; the latter, Instructions for the Edification of the Church in Pious and Christian Conversation. *Preface to a Collection of Offices or Forms of Prayer, in Cases.*

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Cases ordinary and extraordinary, 8vo.
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To the *Psalms*, *Epistles*, and *Gospels*, if Care be taken to add the *Collects* that are before these latter, and the *Lord's Prayer*; the short *Service* will be so much the more compleat, and be the more likely to be advantagious to them, who, because they have not Time for more, shall think fit to use it.

The Fifth and last Method. In Order to Preparation for the Sacrament of our Lord's Supper; a Duty of very great Importance and Consequence, and which ought to be of frequent Return; let me recommend that choice Collection out of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, which the Church of *England* has directed and required to be read the Week before *Easter* Yearly; where we have Prophecies concerning our Lord's Sufferings; the History of them at large in the Gospel; the Institution of that Blessed Sacrament, in the first Epistle to the *Corinthians*,
Chapter

Chapter the 11th; and proper Readings out of the Epistle to the *Philippians*, and to the *Hebrews*. All which are fit to instruct and affect us; to excite us to a Hatred of Sin; to provoke us to the Love of God the Father, and of his Blessed Son, who died for us; and to the Love of our Neighbours; to confirm and increase our Faith, and to strengthen our Hope; and to encourage us *to run with Patience, and Thankfulness, the Race which is set before us.*



A Prayer to be used before Reading the Holy Scripture; being the Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent.

‘ **B**lessed Lord, who hast caused all
‘ Holy Scriptures to be written
‘ for our Learning; Grant that we
‘ may in such wise hear them, read,
‘ mark, learn, and inwardly digest
‘ them; that by Patience and Com-
‘ fort

' fort of thy Holy Word, we may
 ' embrace and ever hold fast the Blef-
 ' sed Hope of everlasting Life, which
 ' thou hast given us in our Saviour
 ' Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Glory to God in the Highest, and on
 Earth Peace, good Will towards Men.*

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I N I S.



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